

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SEDU, IR

SUBJ: VISA ARRANGEMENTS FOR IRANIAN STUDENTS TO BE SENT TO US ON
SCHOLARSHIPS FROM GOI

1. DURING A CALL BY THE AMBASSADOR ON MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION, ABDOL HOSSEIN SAMI'I, THE LATTER STATED THAT THE SHAH HAD APPROVED A MAJOR PROGRAM FOR SENDING IRANIAN STUDENTS ABROAD AT GOI EXPENSE. STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED WHO ARE INTERESTED IN FILLING SPECIFIC TRAINED MANPOWER NEEDS. THEY WILL BE GUIDED IN ENROLLING IN INSTITUTIONS STRONG IN THEIR PROPOSED SPECIALTY (NOT ONLY IN THE US) AND WILL BE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO IRAN AT THE COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES TO PUT THEIR NEW SKILLS AT THE SERVICE OF IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT. DR SAMI'I INQUIRED HOW WE COULD ASSIST THE GOI TO ASSURE THAT STUDENTS ONCE TRAINED IN THE US, DO INDEED RETURN TO IRAN. THE AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER, FOR HE FELT THIS WAS A SUBJECT OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE USG ALSO.

2. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT STUDENTS SUBSIDIZED BY THE GOI WOULD UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS BE ISSUED EXCHANGE VISITOR VISAS (I.E. TYPE J VISAS) WHICH REQUIRE THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY FOR A TOTAL OF TWO YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES. BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR IMMIGRANT OR TEMPORARY WORK VISAS. WE UNDERSTAND, FURTHER, THAT THE MAJOR EXCEPTION TO THIS PROCEDURE PERTAINS TO IRANIANS WHO TAKE AN AMERICAN SPOUSE AND CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT THE TWO-YEAR RETURN REQUIREMENT WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNUSUAL HARDSHIP ON THEM.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: IS THERE SOME MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN AFFIRM

TO THE GOI THAT THE PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO TYPE J VISAS ISSUED
TO IRANIAN STUDENS SUPPORTED BY THE GOI WILL BE CLOSELY ENFORCED?
ALTERNATIVELY, IS THERE A POSSIBLITY THAT A SPECIAL VISA ARRANGE-
MENT COULD BE CONCLUDED WITH THE GOI TO ASSURE THE RETURN TO IRAN
OF MANPOWER TRAINED IN THE US?
HELMS

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